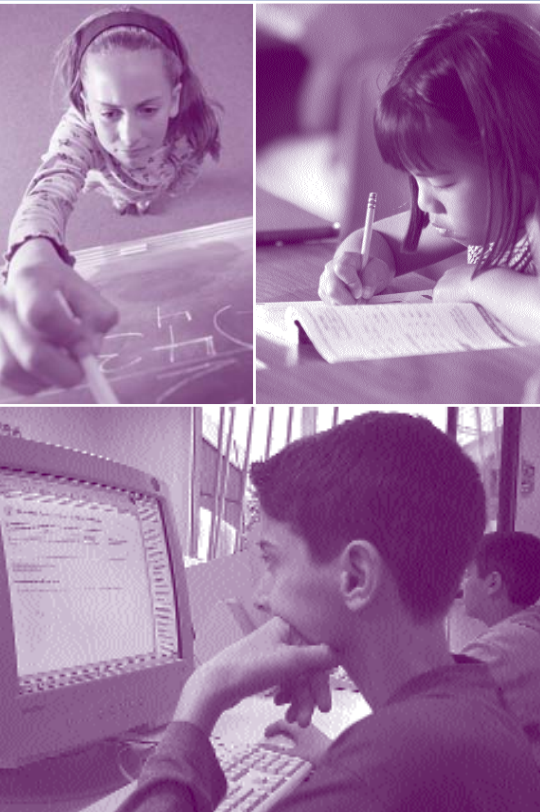


State Representative **F. Dale Grubb**



Session Report



- ☒ The New State Budget
- ☒ Fighting Crime
- ☒ Transportation of VX Waste
- ☒ Meth Legislation

THE STATE BUDGET

WHY I VOTED 'NO'



Dear Friends,

The new state budget that passed by a narrow margin not only increases property taxes, but it also cuts funding for most local schools. I found this unacceptable and I voted "NO."

After years of efforts to reduce property taxes, while properly funding education, the budget approved will cut state funding for many schools and raise property taxes by nearly \$850 million.

You may see increases of 10 percent in property taxes as a result of its passage and rural non-growing schools will be forced to cut programs or lay-off teachers as a result of this reduction in state support.

More than 140 school corporations will receive less money from the state and thus funding for public schools will come primarily from raising local property taxes. Times may be tough but passing the buck on to local property taxpayers is the wrong solution.

In addition there will also be reduced state support through the Property Tax Replacement Credit (PTRC), another move that will increase local property taxes. Just three years ago the state budget increased the amount of state support to combat rising property taxes in light of the court ordered

statewide reassessment. This budget reverses those gains.

Funding for health care for the elderly, disabled and children is a problem in that it's not funded at the level of projected need, therefore the budget is either not balanced or medical services will be denied to some.

I often hear about how our roads need fixed, yet with this budget, state assistance for road repairs and improvements will decrease as well. Fountain County will receive \$87,000 less, Warren \$71,000 less, Vermillion \$58,500 less, Parke \$95,000 less and Vigo \$150,000 less. In addition, each local town will get less road repair money.

I think you can see why I voted "NO."

Increased property tax reliance must end.

Legislative council has authorized a summer study of how to do just that, find an alternative to property taxes to fund schools and local government. Just when I thought some progress had been made I find we must work even harder to effect change in our tax policies.

Wishing you the best of summers,

F. Dale Grubb



Fighting Crime

Senate Bill 164 will require a person convicted of possession of child pornography with a prior conviction for the same offense to register as a sex offender.

House Bill 1057 makes it a Class C infraction for a person in the passenger compartment of a motor vehicle to possess an alcoholic beverage container that has

been opened, has a broken seal or from which some of the contents have been removed.

Senate Bill 525 authorizes the state to seek a sentence of life imprisonment without parole for a person who commits a Class A felony constituting a sex offense against a child and who also has a prior unrelated Class A felony conviction for a sex offense against a child.

VX Legislation Passes

The House of Representatives passed my VX destruction and transportation legislation during the completed session by a vote of 86-0. House Bill 1059 included three provisions that will make the exact location and status of the toxic material and its transportation a more detailed and safer process.

The legislation states that facilities generating hazardous waste must be able to demonstrate that the waste will be destroyed or treated to the point of no longer being highly toxic. If any materials are transported, they must have a transportation risk analysis document filed with the Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), the state police department, and the state emergency management agency prior to the move.

I have always felt that Hoosier safety and protection must remain the top priority as we move through the destruction process and handling of the secondary waste. This bill continues our vigilance.

New Laws Address Production of Meth

It has become a recurring theme each legislative session: the Indiana General Assembly passes new laws designed to stop the production and use of the drug meth. The 2005 session was no different, as we restricted the sale of cold and allergy medicines and other products that contain ephedrine and pseudoephedrine, two ingredients used to make meth.

When this law took effect on July 1, stores are now required to keep the drugs in a locked case or behind a counter. In addition, customers are limited to 3 grams—about 100 tablets—of the medicines per week. To make a purchase, they will have to show a state or federal ID and sign a logbook.

This legislation is patterned after an Oklahoma law that has helped result in an 80 percent reduction in meth labs found in that state.

Why is meth so dangerous? Medical experts say the drug, which can be made inexpensively using chemicals that are easy to purchase, produces a high that lasts longer than cocaine and causes delusions and psychotic behavior. Since many of the ingredients are highly dangerous, producing meth raises the risk of explosions and contamination.



Speed Limits

Hoosier drivers are now able to go faster on major roadways in Indiana. Effective July 1, speed limits on rural sections of interstate highways increased from 65 to 70 mph for cars and 60 to 65 mph for trucks. Speed limits on four-lane divided highways will increase from 55 to 60 mph following a study by the Indiana Department of Transportation to ensure the safety of higher speeds on those roads.



Helping Survivors

The surviving spouse and children of Indiana State Police officers who are killed in the line of duty will be able to receive health care coverage.

Protecting Firefighters

Volunteer firefighters and emergency medical technicians will not be penalized by their employers for being absent when they are responding to emergency calls.



Bad Weather

The Indiana Department of Health will be required to adopt new guidelines concerning the safety of children during bad weather.

Contact

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2005 Session Highlights



Rep. Grubb addresses the House
of Representatives.



Rep. Grubb debates proposed
legislation in the chamber.



Rep. Grubb speaks
as the families of
deceased Hoosier
servicemen are hon-
ored in the House of
Representatives.

Representative F. Dale Grubb

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